

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

2006 – 2011 Strategic Plan

(2008 – 2009 Tasks)

Strategic Work Plan Goals for Implementation of the Regional Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta

Reader's Note: In this section of the Strategic Work Plan, text in paragraph form is taken from the Regional Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta, adopted pursuant to the Delta Protection Act. Text in bullet point form has been added as a result of the visioning process.

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL PLAN FOR THE PRIMARY ZONE OF THE DELTA

Goals:

Complete summary of accomplished policy recommendations cited in the Management Plan.

- Establish priority/timeline for completion of remaining tasks.
- Identify unaddressed areas.
- Develop tools for proactive “integration” of Management Plan into local general plans and planning resources resulting in a positive image for the Commission.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Promote inclusion of Delta Element or Chapter in San Joaquin and Yolo County General Plan updates to document policies of the Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta for implementation in local land use decisions.	
Complete process for update of Commission Land Use and Resource Management Plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta.	
Monitor process for implementation of Delta Vision Strategic Plan and provide input when deemed appropriate, particularly in the areas of Governance, Agriculture and Levees.	
Initiate process to incorporate recommendations for implementation of updated Management Plan Policies into 2006-2011 Strategic Plan.	

2. ENVIRONMENT

Goals: Preserve and protect the natural resources of the Delta, including soils. Promote protection of remnants of riparian habitat. Promote seasonal flooding and agriculture practices on agricultural lands to maximize wildlife use of the hundreds of thousands of acres of lands in the Delta. Promote levee maintenance and rehabilitation to preserve the land areas and channel configurations in the Delta.

- Enhance educational awareness of the benefits of an adaptive working landscapes approach to managing agricultural and habitat resources in the Delta.
- Explore options for balancing environmental mitigation with other land uses, including agriculture and flood protection.
- Explore options for land use practices (Best Management Practices) that reduce or reverse subsidence e.g., Sherman Island.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Continue to co-sponsor Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum to assure stakeholder and local jurisdiction input into potential development of management plan.	
Initiate implementation of Working Landscapes Grant with Ducks Unlimited, Hart Restoration and local landowners consistent with awarded grant provisions.	
Continue to monitor Bay Delta Conservation Plan process and provide input when deemed appropriate.	
Promote coordination of local and state habitat conservation programs consistent with Management Plan policies.	
Support legislation that promotes conversion of agricultural lands to habitat if consistent with land characteristics/ parameters identified by Commission and submitted to the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force.	
Promote establishment of an “in-delta” conservancy to promote the policies of the Commission’s Management Plan.	
Support programs to address invasive species impacts.	
Monitor proposals for establishment of mitigation banks in the Primary Zone to determine consistency with policies of the Commission’s Management Plan.	

3. UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Protect the Delta from excessive construction of utilities and infrastructure facilities, including those that support uses and development outside the Delta. Where construction of new utility and infrastructure facilities is appropriate, ensure the impacts of such new construction on the integrity of levees, wildlife, and agriculture are minimized.

- Pursue sources of reference relative to transportation related issues in the Delta.
- Consider long-term impact mitigation opportunities.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Monitor conveyance facility proposals and provide input as deemed appropriate relative to consistency with the Delta Protection Act and Management Plan policies.	
Continue to monitor Delta Risk Management Strategy process as a member of the Steering Committee.	
Consider abandoned railroad rights-of-way to determine feasibility of rails-to-trails connections relative to The Great California Delta Trail.	

4. LAND USE

Goals: Protect the unique character and qualities of the Primary Zone by preserving the cultural heritage and strong agricultural base of the Primary Zone. Direct new residential, commercial, and industrial development within the existing communities as currently designated and where appropriate services are available.

- Develop tools for establishing a baseline for resources in the Primary Zone.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Promote inclusion of Delta Element or Chapter in San Joaquin and Yolo County General Plan updates.	
Promote opportunities for economic development, including ag and eco-tourism, development of marketing incentives and promotion of enterprise zones.	
Complete feasibility study to initiate application for establishment of Delta National Heritage Area, including coordination with Carquinez Strait Preservation Trust.	
Include educational and interpretive component in links of <i>The Great California Delta Trail</i> where feasible.	

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Monitor Delta Vision, Bay Delta Conservation Plan and Delta Risk Management Strategy processes and provide input as deemed appropriate.	
Promote opportunities, programs and processes to enhance and solidify buffers between Primary and Secondary Zones.	
Support processes and programs that promote and assure proactive consistency and compliance with the policies of the Management Plan in local land use decisions.	
Participate in programs to establish land use guidelines with respect to climate change and sea level rise potential impacts.	

5. AGRICULTURE

Goal: Support long-term viability of commercial agriculture and discourage inappropriate development of agricultural lands.

- Establish forum for Delta-wide collaboration among agricultural interests on common activities and issues.
- Establish a program for Delta agricultural easements.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Implement working landscapes demonstration projects with Ducks Unlimited and Hart Restoration consistent with awarded Grant provisions.	
Complete facilitated development of principles, strategies and guidelines for establishment of volunteer Delta-wide agricultural easement program to be utilized for implementation by local land trusts.	
Facilitate Delta county ag commissioner discussions relative to establishment of a coordinated Delta-wide rodent control program, particularly as relates to levee maintenance.	
Assure representation of agricultural interests/perspectives in Delta Trail Planning process, including participation on Stakeholder Advisory Committee.	

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Promote programs to enhance ag tourism, economic development and enterprise districts for ag related facilities, including coordination with local ag commissioners.	
Promote establishment of an “in-delta” conservancy program to support Commission goals.	
Assure agriculture perspective is represented in Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum discussions.	

6. WATER

Goal: Protect long-term water quality in the Delta for agriculture, municipal, industrial, water-contact recreation, and fish and wildlife habitat uses, as well as all other designated beneficial uses.

- Develop programs for Delta-wide collaboration to effectively and efficiently address water quality issues including salinity intrusion.
- Participate in data collection/monitoring programs relative to salinity (X2).

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Monitor State Water Plan update process and provide input as deemed appropriate.	
Promote and participate in Delta Mercury TMDL Stakeholder process.	
Monitor processes relative to potential conveyance facilities and provide input as deemed appropriate relative to policies of the Commission’s Management Plan.	
Participate in processes related to addressing climate change and sea level rise impacts.	

7. RECREATION AND ACCESS

Goals: Promote continued recreational use of the land and waters of the Delta. Ensure that needed facilities that allow such uses are constructed, maintained, and supervised. Protect landowners from unauthorized recreational uses on private lands. Maximize dwindling public funds for recreation by promoting public-private partnerships and multiple use of Delta lands.

- Establish programs for recognition of the value of recreational access to appreciate the unique resources of the Delta.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Initiate feasibility and planning process, including establishment of Stakeholder and Technical Advisory Committees for The Great California Delta Trail in Solano and Contra Costa counties and seek funding support to initiate process in Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo counties.	
Complete feasibility documents required for application for establishment of a Delta National Heritage Area.	
Complete Delta Trail link as part of the Glen Cove Waterfront Park along Carquinez Strait, Solano County.	
Seek grant funding from Solano County administered Fish and Wildlife Propagation Fund for establishment of link of Delta Trail along Benicia waterfront, Solano County, including educational components.	
Participate in State Parks Vision implementation process to assure consistency with Management Plan policies.	

8. LEVEES

Goals: Support the improvement and long-term maintenance of Delta levees by coordinating permit reviews and guidelines for levee maintenance. Develop a long-term funding program for levee maintenance. Protect levees in emergency situations. Give levee rehabilitation and maintenance the priority over other uses of levee areas.

- Pursue efforts to enhance recognition of public health and safety as a priority.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Initiate implementation of Phase II of Delta Emergency Preparedness and Response Strategy, including gap analysis and document review, consistent with the provisions of Senate Bill 27.	

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Participate in development of Long-term Management Strategy for Dredging as member of the Executive Committee and Management Committee.	
Provide input on Delta Risk Management Strategy process as deemed appropriate.	
Provide input on infrastructure bonds, flood safe guidelines and legislation to express support for public health and safety projects.	
Monitor Delta Vision Strategic Plan implementation and provide input as deemed appropriate, relative to levee maintenance.	
Provide support for Levees Subventions Program.	
Promote habitat friendly levee maintenance practices where feasible.	
Promote reuse of dredged material for levee maintenance.	

9. MARINE PATROL, BOATER EDUCATION, AND SAFETY PROGRAMS

Goals:

- Pursue opportunities for development of Delta-wide programs to enhance boater awareness and an appreciation for recreational boating.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Promote programs to address abandoned vessel issue.	
Include potential to develop water trails in Delta Trail feasibility and planning process.	
Participate in programs to address aquatic invasive species.	
Provide input into water-related demonstration projects to assure boater/marine perspective is represented.	
Support programs to enhance marina facilities relative to economic development.	

Strategic Work Plan Goals for Program Administration

1. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Goals:

Recognition as the voice of those that live, work, and play in the Delta, consistent with the Regional Plan and the Delta Protection Act.

- Become proactive, integral part of local and regional land use and visioning processes.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Facilitate dissemination of information to Delta stakeholders relative to Delta resources.	
Participate as a member of the Resource Agency Public Information Team and DWR PIO Coordination Team to provide Delta perspective at State agency level.	
Promote Delta stewardship and branding through education and proactive outreach.	
Enhance public affairs/outreach tools.	
Support establishment of Delta Discovery Center, including coordinated exhibit of Commission member entities.	
Complete conversion to State e-mail system.	

2. BUDGET

Goals:

- Develop Budget Maintenance Program.
- Identify and pursue opportunities for long-term funding sustainability.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Submit Budget Change Proposal for 2009/2010 FY as determined necessary to maintain sustainable budget.	.
Seek continued contribution from Commission Member entities to support Commission budget for continued effective implementation of the Management Plan and Strategic Plan.	
Complete contracts necessary to receive grant funding reimbursements.	

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Proactively seek grant fund/special funding opportunities.	
Seek funding support for any enhanced responsibilities arising out of adoption of Delta Vision Strategic Plan.	
Continue to seek funding to cover administrative costs relative to Delta Trail and grant funded projects.	

3. STAFFING

Goals:

- Develop comprehensive human resource program, consistent with State requirements and policies.
- Evaluate long-term position expertise and level needs.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Upgrade office equipment as needed to support effective staff functions.	
Complete upgrade of Executive Director position.	
Realize salary savings where feasible.	
Utilize in-kind member contributions for staffing support.	

4. COMMISSIONERS

Goals:

- Develop and implement Commissioner Orientation package.
- Enhance Commissioner meeting attendance.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Identify alternates for members effective January 1, 2009 pursuant to signing of AB 2503 by the Governor.	
Consider development of Commissioner meeting attendance policy.	
Consider feasibility of having monthly Commission meetings.	
Consider development of policy relative to level of Member representation.	

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Review and update Commission Sub-committees as deemed appropriate.	
Explore ways to encourage and enhance Director level participation in Commission matters and actions.	

5. LEGISLATION

Goals:

- Develop tools for effective influence through legislative authority.

2008 / 2009 Tasks	Quarterly Status
Implement provisions of AB 2503 (member alternates)	
Identify legislation warranting formal Commission positions.	
Identify potential areas for seeking sponsorship of legislation on behalf of Commission.	
Utilize Resources Agency and Commissioner Member staffing resources for legislative tracking and submit bill analyses as determined appropriate.	
Participate in efforts to address abandoned vessel and invasive species impacts.	